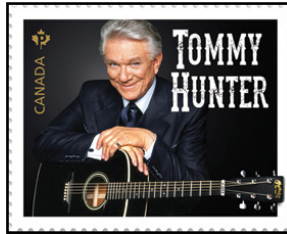


Canada Post Honors Its Country Artists

On July 31 Canada Post recognized the nation's contribution to the evolution of country music with a series of five new stamps featuring some of the country's most renowned artists:

Tommy Hunter: For generations of Canadians, Hunter was like an old friend, singing to them for 27 years on the longest-running network country music television show in the world. "Canada's Country Gentleman," he was a major force in raising the profile and popularity of Canadian country music.



k.d. lang: In a career that has spanned nearly 30 years, with over a dozen albums and millions of records sold worldwide, k.d. lang has won both JUNO and Grammy awards for her work. The Canadian Country Music Association has named k.d. lang both Female



Vocalist of the Year and Entertainer of the Year.

Renée Martel: Renée Martel has enjoyed a long and outstanding career. Born in 1947 in Quebec, she grew up in the musical universe of her parents, both musicians. Her father was Marcel Martel, a popular Quebec country music singer. Renée's own career has swung between the modern and the traditional, between the world of pop music and her country heritage.



Hank Snow: Hank Snow, the Singing Ranger, was born 100 years ago in Nova Scotia. He began his career at CHNS Radio in Halifax in 1933, and toured the Maritimes and Western Canada playing at county fairs and local radio stations. In 1936, he recorded under RCA Victor's Bluebird label in Montréal and signed what would become the longest continuous contract in the history of the recording industry: 47 years. In 1950 he joined the Grand Ole Opry, where he continued to perform for four and a half decades.

He recorded over 100 albums, was elected to eight music and song-writing halls of fame, and was voted Canada's top country performer 10 times.

Shania Twain: Canadian superstar Shania Twain was born in Windsor, Ontario and raised in Timmins. She to fame in the early 1990s, and her 1997 album, "Come On Over," became the best-selling album of all time by a female musician, and the best-selling country album of all time. She has won five Grammy Awards, 27 BMI Songwriter Awards, and 26 Canadian Country Music Awards.



The stamps are available in five separate booklets of 10, one for each artist, and five separate souvenir sheets. For information on this and other Canada new issues and a link to the Canada Post website, please go to

<http://www.stampnewsnow.com/canadaPostnewissues.html>.